The Videophile's Newsletter

issue #6

MARCH/APRIL -1977

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DEPOSITION SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY OR PRODUCE DOCUMENTS OR THINGS (Revised Sept. 1971) D.C. Form No. 9

United States District Court

FOR THE

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. Misc. 1-25

UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS, INC., et al.

vs.

SONY CORPORATION OF AMERICA, et al.

TO Jim Lowe, 2014 S. Magnolia Drive, Talahassee, Florida
or Room 200
Capitol

YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear at 1030 East Lafayette Street, Talahassee, Florida, in the city of Talahassee, Florida on the 25th day February, 1977, at 9:30 o'clock A. M. to testify on behalf of plaintiffs

at the taking of a deposition in the above entitled action pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California and bring with you

All of the documents and things listed on Exhibit A which is attached hereto and incorporated in full herein.

Dated February 17, 1977.

Stephen A. Kroft

STEPHEN A. KROFT,
Attorney for Plaintiffs

Address California 90210

MARVIN S. WAITS, *Clerk.*

By D. D. [illegible] *Deputy Clerk.*

Any subpoenaed organization not a party to this suit is hereby admonished pursuant to Rule 30 (b) (6), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, to file a designation with the court specifying one or more officers, directors, or managing agents, or other persons who consent to testify on its behalf, and shall set forth, for each person designated, the matters on which he will testify or produce documents or things. The persons so designated shall testify as to matters known or reasonably available to the organization.

Happenings

Back in TVN #4, I editorialized that "... the corporate attorneys have better things to do than to ... prosecute some poor schmoe who has a few tapes (or even a few dozen tapes) which he is keeping purely for his own enjoyment and that of his friends." Naiveté lives! As the cover of this issue indicates, either (1) corporate attorneys do not have better things to do, (2) it is a far, far better thing to do than might at first be imagined, or (3) I am something other than the garden variety poor schmoe. The latter possibility, being perhaps the more personally flattering, is a tempting one to embrace, but .... well, you figure it out. A full report of my adventures begins on the next page. Draw your own conclusions.

Someone who has a more grim view of human nature than my own might see it as a heavy handed attempt to intimidate a soft target and nip the fledgling interests of the home video hobbyist in the bud. And yet if this is the case, I can only remark that the sale of over 30,000 Betamax video recorders in this country and the prospect of many more such sales would seem to make such an attempt very postmature indeed, the "bud" being now as much a part of history as is "Holmes and Yoyo."

Last issue I asked you to let me know if you would be interested in buying tape through a cooperative on a case-a-month basis . Several of you have given me a positive response on this, and I had hoped to have it firmed up by now. However, the SCOTCH brand tape has been delayed once more, this time until June, so plans on bulk purchases will have to be shelved for a while. I will keep you posted on this. In the meantime I would like to report once again that I still get excellent service from: Tape City, Inc. 404 Park Ave. South, N.Y.,N.Y. 10016. They will sell you a case of 12 Sony Betamax K-60 cassettes postpaid for $162. That's $13.50 per. I send them a bank money order and the UPS delivers the tape 7 or 8 days later!

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It has been reported to me that the solution to the "purple snow" problem offered last issue offered false hope to at least one viewer. Risty writes in to say that those who are on the cable (rather than an antenna) cannot really tune out the color without losing a decent black and white picture as well. I have been able to experiment only a little with this (I'm on cable too, but mine does not have a seperate tuner as does his) and have also noticed that it is a critical tuning situation. As Risty points out recordings made on the timer cannot really be dealt with in this way either. Please let me know if any of you have further thoughts on this. Perhaps the new industrial model Betamax (with its video input) can handle this.

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Capsule Review: "NETWORK" I looked forward to this film with much anticipation ... and having seen it can only say that it is time for someone to step forward and pan it for the ludicrous dog-of-a-movie that it is. All the critics are raving ... but I thought it was really poor! I say this not because I am a TV addict; I'll be the first to be critical of network programming bosses, but really ... negotiating with terrorists?, killing an anchorman on the air? The whole thing was too incredible to be enjoyed as either a serious comment or a comedy, try as you might.

The Videophile's Newsletter is a product of Small Potatoes Publishing Company (considering merger with "Free the Motha Press" as a precautionary measure), and is published steadfastly at 2014 S. Magnolia Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. Those portions of the contents which are susceptible to same are copyright 1977 by Jim Lowe. Send checks for Defense Fund to him.

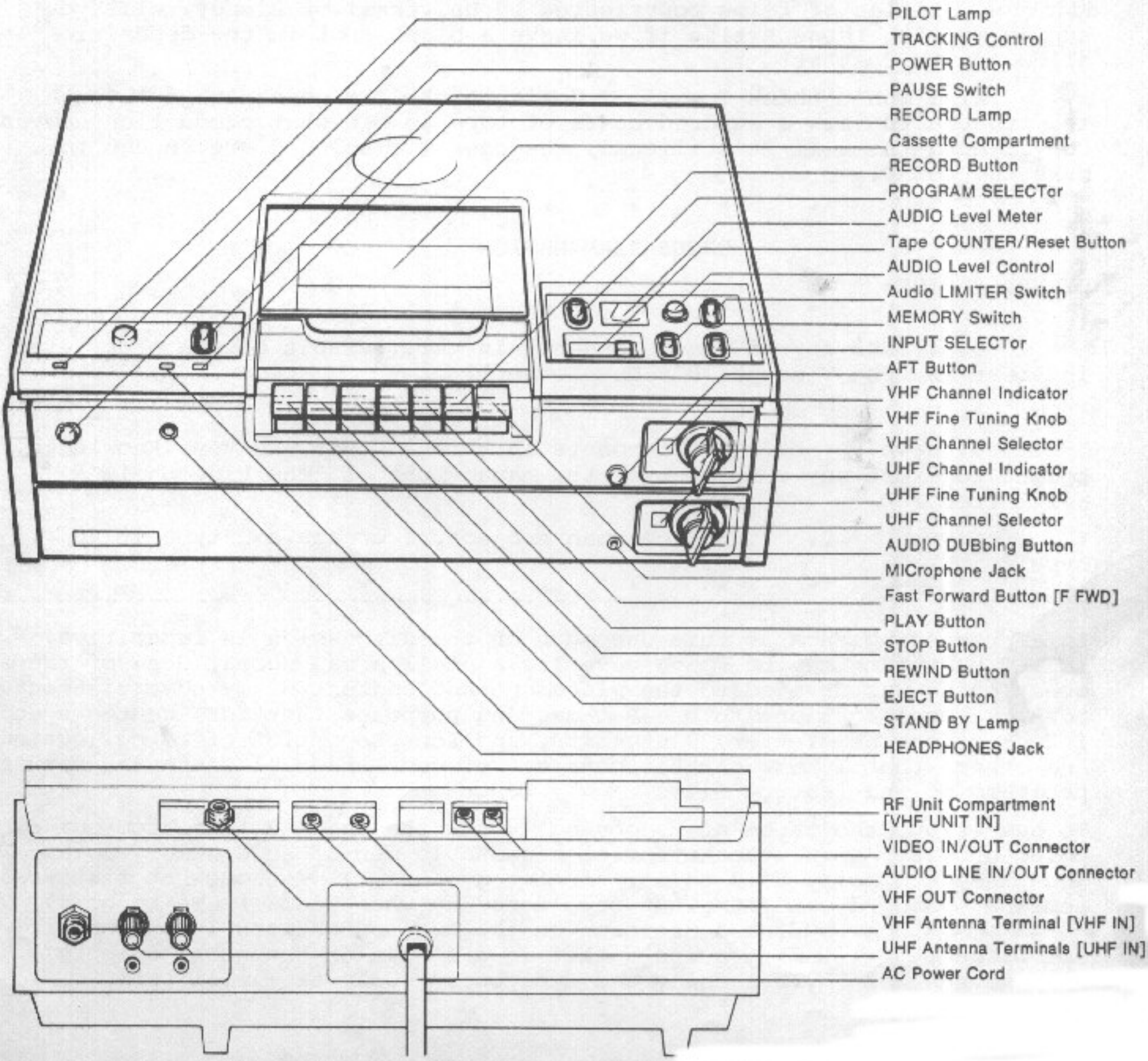
Over the weekend attorneys for Sony called me from New York to find out what it was all about. I informed them that my sympathies were with their side of the case even though I was technically being asked to testify as a witness for the plaintiff. On Monday I learned that a Mr. Kroft, representing Universal and Disney would be flying in from California to conduct the deposition. Legally, I had several avenues open to me. I could file a motion to quash the subpoena (Isn't that a great word?), or file objections to producing particular documents. Either of these might have been a successful delaying tactic, but I opted to go ahead and appear for the deposition and take the position that much of what Universal/Disney sought to discover from me was none of their business (or if you prefer legalese ... was not relevant or material to the issues of the case).

At the appointed hour on Friday, February 25, three gentlemen in snappy suits (Hon. Stephen A. Kroft, representing Universal and Disney, Hon. Frank R. Rosiny, representing Sony, and your humble editor) together with a court reporter, who was pretty snappy herself, all sat down in the conference room of a local law office. During the course of the next four and one-half hours, I freely described my activities as an individual and also as publisher of this newsletter. I confirmed that I had, in fact, made off-the-air copies of material with respect to which Universal Studios or Walt Disney hold the copyright. I also outlined in a general way my intentions with respect to trading tapes with others, but all the while emphasizing that it was all for nonprofit purposes.

I declined to produce a detailed list of my tape collection, my mailing list and copies of the correspondence that I have had with many of you. Accordingly, Mr. Kroft reserved his right to seek an order in the federal District Court for the Northern District of Florida compelling me to answer questions and produce documents with respect to these items. If this occurs, it will problably be sometime the latter part of April. Assuming that Universal/Disney choose to press the matter, and are able to convince the court that the specifics of my personal lists and correspondence are material to their case, I would once again be at a point of decision. I could appeal the court order, and drag things out indefinitely, though at some expense, or I could be stubborn, keep mum, and risk being held in contempt of court. While I have no desire to become a cause celebre over this silly law suit, I do feel a strong duty to protect the confidence of those who have trusted me ... and besides that I just can't bring myself to accept the notion that a corporate combine can send agents around the country, selecting consumers of another corporation's product and rightfully demanding to examine the private contents of their personal effects, anymore than I can walk next door and demand to see the contents of my neighbor's refrigerator just because I might happen to be engaged in a dispute with the Koolzmorr Refrigerator Company.

Anyway ... following our little get together I sent a form memorandum to each person whose name and address have appeared within these pages, advising them of what had transpired. The transcript of my testimony runs 160 pages and (for the more affluent among you) a copy can be purchased at 75¢ a page (ouch!) from: Accurate Stenotype Reporters, Fla. For the rest of you, I herewith present a few excerpts. I hesitate to go on and on about this little adventure, taking up space that could be given over to the many news items and other tidbits that have been sent in, so I have kept these excerpts to a minimum. Please keep in mind that the * * *'s indicate the omission of what may have been many pages of testimony between the passages that are reproduced here.

The "industrial" version of the Betamax is now here! This is the model SLO-260, mentioned on page 4 last issue. It has all the features expected, and so far as I know lists for the $1445 previously stated. It is substantially the same Betamax deck that most of you have, but with added features (camera input jack, audio dubbing button, audio level meter, audio level control and limiter switch, plus microphone and headphone jacks) which were anticipated by the design of our models. Notice that where your deck has a blank space, this one has a switch, jack, button, etc. Is this the machine we really want? Who knows? I expect to wait for the two hour system (announced elsewhere in these pages) before making another move. Thanks go to Henry's Camera in Los Angeles for sending me the brochure on this model, a portion of which is reproduced below.



* VIDEO NEWS *

BETAMAX TO BECOME STANDARD? ZENITH THROWS SUPPORT TO SONY ! SANYO THROWS IN THE TOWEL? DOES JIM LOWE KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?

Well ... the answers are a mixture of yep's and could be's. Things are happening fast in the world of video cassette hardware. No sooner do articles, which I had intended to include, appear about how Sony no longer has the field to itself, than another big story breaks and everything gets turned around again. (I even got a letter from Joe Mazzini saying that his comments in the back pages, sent to me earlier, may have been premature.)

Sony stock was the most active issue on the New York Stock Exchange, February 2, after an announcement that it, in cooperation with Toshiba and Sanyo, have developed a two-hour video cassette system that will allow interchangeable use of all three companies video cassette tapes. Marketing is set to begin in Japan in April. The Wall Street Journal reports that the system will sell for the equivalent of $940, and the two hour cassettes for $14.

In another, and nearly simultaneous, release, Zenith announced that it has agreed to adopt the Betamax format for a new VTR that it plans to market in the fall. All of this, plus RCA's plans, is summed up in an article sent to me by Hal Scheie, which appeared in Merchandising magazine. Herewith, that article: (Thanks, Hal!)

Zenith-Sony VTR license deal, RCA plans bring videocassette field into sharper focus

The stage has been set for some heavy competition in the home videocassette recorder field with Zenith's catalytic announcement that it will market a 2-hour VTR based on Sony's Betamax technology.

RCA said it expects to offer a VTR in the second half of this year, and at press time was in the process of evaluating various systems. It is understood negotiations were in progress with Japanese makers on a licensing deal and that a decision from RCA was imminent. Earlier, Edgar Griffiths, president and chief executive officer, said RCA could enter the market by buying OEM decks, then producing its own units as the VTR became a mass market item.

In the meantime, Sanyo and Toshiba have adopted the new 2-hour Betamax system called Beta-Format and it is believed that each company expects to introduce its own version in the U.S. later this year. Sanyo's V-Cord-II, originally proposed as a home unit, is now understood to be targeted at the institutional market here.

Zenith's agreement with Sony Corp. of Japan gives it the rights to market and produce VTR's based on the Sony technology. The units Zenith expects to offer in volume nationally this fall will be made by Sony in Japan to Zenith's specifications. They include VTR decks that can be attached to any tv receiver as well as several models in which the deck is combined with a 25-in. tv in one furniture cabinet. The decks will be incorporated into the cabinetry at Zenith's plant.

Expect May preview

It is expected that the deck, featuring a timer, will be previewed at the firm's May line showing in Las Vegas, with the introduction of the console combination models to take place at its July/August convention.

Also offered will be a black-and-white camera and microphone, as well as blank cassette tapes.

Pricing has not been firmed up, but Zenith said the VTR will be priced "to be competitive with other high quality video player/recorders."

RCA's VTR decision is viewed as key to the question of standardization here. Should RCA enter into a licensing agreement with Sony, it is believed that the Sony system would become the standard. If RCA adopts Matsushita's JVC VHS format, it would mean the existence of at least two systems on the market.

Matsushita's Quasar Electronics Co. has since January marketed its "Great Time Machine" VTR, another system, at a suggested retail of $995, $265 below the Betamax.

Panasonic will offer a VTR unit this year, but Ray Gates, vice president, consumer electronics group, declined to elaborate, saying only the company is "studying" the market.

Shift away from disc?

It is believed that Sony's success with Betamax, particularly the unit's recording capability, renewed other manufacturers' interest in videocassette recorders, causing them to divert their activity from videodisc players.

Zenith, however, said the move to market VTR has not affected its disc programs and that it is continuing its disc R&D in anticipation of the market it sees developing in this field. Previously, Karl Horn, senior vice president-research and engineering, noted that Zenith would not have a videodisc player on the market before 1979.

Griffiths said RCA could introduce a disc in the final quarter of 1978 provided the model could be priced at $400, features a two-hour playing time and be accompanied by appropriate available software.

Magnavox, which has been running VTR feasibility tests for nine months but has "reached no conclusions," according to Kenneth Ingram, senior vice president-sales and marketing, still plans to test market the MCA-Philips videodisc system at the end of this year.

$500 retail unrealistic

Industry sources believe that the $500 retail price that MCA-Philips announced for its disc player two years ago is no longer realistic. Asked to comment on pricing, Ingram said, "Of course that was in 1974 dollars. We don't have a number (price) on that yet."

At Quasar, Alex Stone, vice president of marketing and sales, said that "when the disc becomes a viable factor in the marketplace, Matsushita will be sure we are there."

GTE Sylvania's Ken Thomson, vice president-sales, said that the firm's "first entry into VTR would probably be a licensing arrangement on a Japanese unit" and is "tracking developments closely to see if an industry standard will be affected."

Sony, which will introduce a 2-hour Betamax unit at its spring sales meeting, is "watching videodisc activity closely" and feels that it and VTR can "live side by side," according to Lagore.

ITEM: A letter to shareholders of Warner Communications, dated March 10, 1977 announces what Gustave M. Hauser, Board Chairman of Warner Cable calls, "... a communications service unlike anything heretofore offered to the American public." The new service, which will be offered initially to subscribers of Warner Cable in Columbus, Ohio, offers a wide variety of programs utilizing a two-way communications capability. Subscribers will receive 30 channels of video and other information, select programs, play inter-active games, take tests, instantly register their opinion, and actually participate at home in TV programs and events.

[Editorial aside: You know folks everything has both its good and bad side; its potential for good as well as for evil. I say this only because the above item calls to mind scenes from the film Fahrenheit 451, and certain other events have also brought to mind a possible scenario in which enforcement officers of some sort are searching people's attics with a long handled bulk tape eraser, not unlike other scenes from the same. Well ... let's press on undaunted.]

According to the March issue of Videography the system will use small computer terminals, manufactured by Pioneer of Japan, that will be rented by cable households. Videography also says: "If successful, the system will be the first large-scale application of pay-per-view capability, with subscribers selecting each pay-tv movie they want to watch and being billed separately for it. Other capabilities of the 30-channel-capacity system will be local origination programs from the headend's quad-equipped studio and interactive community services (at no extra charge), burglar and fire-alarm services, and electronic games subscribers can play with each other." The write up also notes that video game manufacturer Atari Corporation has recently been purchased by Warner Communications.

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MORE LAWSUIT NEWS: Harold Witherspoon of Hickory, North Carolina sends me a clipping from Billboard which states that a motion by Sony to dismiss the Universal/Disney/Sony suit was to have been heard March 14 in Los Angeles. I hadn't heard any more on this at press time. ... Bruce Apar, writing in the March Videography says: "The lawsuit is ludicrous and, for MCA's part, as transparent as its DiscoVision videodisc. Ludicrous because taping a broadcast without intent to profit does not -- and should not-- violate any copyright law. Even in the inevitable instances that Betamax-taped programs are pirated, Sony surely isn't liable. If it were, where would that leave any maker of audiotape equipment? The action against Sony is transparent because through it one can sense MCA has broken out into a corporate sweat over the sales strides Betamax is making. Its creaky attempt to impede Sony's rapid advance on the marketplace fairly shout out, 'We're worried!'" (MCA is the parent corp. of Universal)

Sony Plans System To Put Home Films, Slides on Videotape

* * *

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

NEW YORK—Sony Corp. announced it will offer a new service to transfer home movies and slides from color film to videotape for display on home television sets through its Betamax recorder-player.

The service will be able, through an electronic process, to restore on tape the faded colors of old 8 mm. and 16 mm. movies and 35 mm. slides and to store the images electronically in a tape cassette about the size of a paperbacked book.

The Sony Betamax recorder can be attached to any TV set to record and play back programs off the air or to play prerecorded tapes. It also can be used with a TV camera, but the cost of a color TV camera is several thousand dollars, so high that few consumers have them. In addition, a TV camera has to be plugged into the recorder and needs an electrical power source, factors that limit its mobility.

Akio Morita, chairman of Sony, told a news conference that the service, which will be available late this year, is intended to take advantage of the low cost and portability of color film cameras to make home movies and slides on tape practical. He said the tapes are more convenient to display, store and catalog than films and slides. The service recently was offered in Japan, Sony's home market.

A Betamax unit for attachment to a TV set has a list price of about $1,300. Sony has sold in the U.S. about 30,000 units that accept a one-hour cassette. It plans to market in the U.S. next fall a new recorder that takes a two-hour cassette, at about the same price.

Sony officials said the company's monthly production capacity for Betamax units is about 15,000, but that it will be increased to 20,000 by June and to 25,000 by the end of this year. Currently, Sony is shipping about half its production to the U.S. and is advertising the unit extensively in this country.

Sony said 16 50-foot reels of 8mm. film can be transferred to a one hour tape. One official estimated that the initial price for transfer would be about $25 for transfer of three to four reels onto tape. However, officials said the goal is a charge of about $50 for a one-hour tape.

For additional fees, as yet undetermined, the service would restore faded colors and remove scratches, edit the films, insert titles and add background music.

At the news conference, Sony demonstrated how an 8mm. color film made in Japan in 1937 had faded to pale, reddish hues but through electronic processing had been resorted almost to natural color on tape. More recent films that hadn't changed color as drastically appeared to have been fully restored to original colors on tape.

A Sony affiliate, S-T Videocassette Duplicating Corp. of Leonia, N.J., will do the processing at the outset, but Sony expects to arrange with other processors to do the work as well. The company intends to use local dealers, such as photo shops and drugstores, to receive films from consumers and to forward them to processors.

The Wall Street Journal of February 15 ran the article at left on the film-to-tape service that Sony will soon unveil. The report also includes other interesting tid-bits. Thanks go to Joseph Walk up Memphis way for sending this in to me.

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I frequently make mention of the must-have publication Videography. Those of you who are already getting it, probably got the advantage of the charter subscriber rates. These are no longer in effect, but the magazine is such a wealth of info that I still recommend it most highly. If you use the blank below tell 'em that TVN sent you:

Videography 750 Third Avenue New York NY 10017

Subscribe today ... and save!

Please enter my subscription for:

☐ 1 year $10 1/6 off single-copy price.
☐ 2 years $18 1/4 off single-copy price.
☐ 3 years $24 1/3 off single-copy price.

☐ Bill me.
☐ Payment enclosed.

add $1 per year outside the U.S.

NAME _____ TITLE _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

fill in lines below to receive Videography at home:

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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ITEM: Several of you have expressed an interest in the new AKAI VT-300 Porta-Pak cassette camera and recorder ... especially since the ad for it sure does look like it takes the good ole Betamax cassette. ... It doesn't. Kerry Decker down in Orlando sends me a copy of a letter from their Director of Video Marketing which, after ballyhooing the product, concludes "P.S. The Betamax and Akai cassettes are not compatable. (Sigh)

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KUDOS: I appreciate very much the space devoted to this modest effort by Don and Maggie Thompson in the April 1 issue of Film Collector's World. Such a nice review from folks who admit that they are not easily satisfied ....

A T T E N T I O N T A P E S T E R S !

THIS IS A COMBINED AD FOR:

RAY GLASSER GARY HERMAN

THIS IS THE FIRST AD YOUR HUMBLE AUTHOR EVER PLACED IN THIS MAGAZINE!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING ON BETAMAX TAPES, ALTHOUGH WE CAN DUB FROM 3/4" TO BETAMAX IF NECESSARY. IN RETURN FOR YOUR FAVORS, WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DUB FROM BETAMAX-TO-BETAMAX, 3/4"-TO-BETAMAX AND BACK. OUR COMPLETE LIBRARY LISTINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

WE ARE BOTH LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING T.V. SHOWS, PREFERABLY IN COLOR WHERE APPLICABLE: U.F.O., THE PRISONER, STARLOST, SCIENCE FICTION THEATER, OUTER LIMITS, SEARCH, GUNSMOKE, THE INVADERS, MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., NIGHT STALKER, FUGITIVE, NIGHT GALLERY, A TOUCH OF EVIL, GHOST STORY, ONE STEP BEYOND.

RAY GLASSER

I CURRENTLY HAVE 76 BETAMAX TAPES. IN PART, MY LIBRARY INCLUDES 16 STAR TREKS, 15 MOVIES (INCLUDING THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, THIS ISLAND EARTH, THE EXORCIST, BLAZING SADDLES, LIVE & LET DIE, DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER, DRACULA PRINCE OF DARKNESS, MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN, COLOSSUS: THE FORBIN PROJECT, WESTWORLD, JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN, FORBIDDEN PLANET, KUNG FU, FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE); NBC'S "THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS"; SUPERMAN (IN COLOR); HONEYMOONERS, WILD WILD WEST, TIME TUNNEL, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, ETC.

MY MOVIE WANTS INCLUDE: ANDROMEDA STRAIN, INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN, VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED, TO SIR WITH LOVE, THE MYSTERIANS, WAR OF THE WORLDS, GENESIS II, HAWAII 5-0 (TV PILOT), THE INVISIBLE BOY, NIGHT STALKER (TV PILOT NIGHT STRANGLER, NIGHT SLAVES, MAN WITH THE X-RAY EYES, THE GREEN SLIME, ME NATALIE, PSYCHO (***UNCUT ONLY***), PIT & THE PENDULUM, POSEIDEN ADVENTURE, AIRPORT, SOYLENT GREEN, TRIBES, THE OMEN, CASABLANCA, IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, FAIL-SAFE, DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK, ISLAND OF THE BURNING DOOMED, THE TIME MACHINE, FUTUREWORLD, PLANET OF THE APES.

GARY HERMAN

I CURRENTLY HAVE 48 BETAMAX TAPES. I HAVE ALL 3 FLASH GORDON SERIALS (SPACE SOLDIERS, TRIP TO MARS, CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE); 10 WONDER WOMAN'S; 2 DAVY CROCKETT'S (KEELBOAT RACE, RIVER PIRATES), PLUS THESE MOVIES: LOVING YOU, WESTWORLD, FIRST MEN IN THE MOON, FANTASTIC PLANET, KING KONG (THE ORIGINAL), SON OF KONG, MIGHTY JOE YOUNG, THE LAST DINOSAUR, 2001.

I AM LOOKING FOR: THE TV SHOWS LISTED ABOVE; ANY MUSICAL MOVIE ON ELVIS; THE 1968 ELVIS SPECIAL PLUS THE "ALOHA FROM HAWAII" SPECIAL; ALL HARRYHAUSEN MOVIES; MARVEL CARTOONS (SPIDERMAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, ETC.); DAVY CROCKETTS; PLUS THE "AMOS BURKE, SECRET AGENT" EPISODE: "TERROR IN A TINY TOWN"; THE LAND UNKNOWN.

****NOTE: OUR TRADES AND WANTS ARE LIMITED ONLY ON OUR AVAILABILITY AND ON-HAND STOCK OF BLANK TAPES.....WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING TAPES IN CLEVELAND.**********

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LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!! WE ARE BOTH REALLY IN TO THIS!!! CLEVELAND TV GUIDES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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ITEM: I continue to get much support and lengthy letters from Marc Wielage, a veritable fountain of information. He recently advised that "If any readers of TVN would like to voice their opinions to our Japanese friends, I would suggest writing to: Sony Corp., Attn. Mr. Masa Namiki, National Marketing Manager, 9 West 57th St., N.Y.,N.Y. 10019. Nag him about the longer tape, etc., and maybe, just maybe it'll do some good."

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STILL MORE LAWSUIT NEWS: I thought you might be interested in an excerpt from the "Answer" filed by Sony attorneys in response to the charges alleged by attorneys for Universal Studios and Walt Disney:
"The right of the people to receive and to record in the privacy of their homes, without making any commercial use thereof, communications transmitted over the public airwaves is protected from governmental interference by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The Copyright Act does not prohibit such use of broadcast communications, and if it were construed to prohibit it, the statute as so applied would be unconstitutional."
... or, after pointing out that Universal (MCA) is planning to market the video disk player:
"By this action plaintiffs are seeking to enforce their copyrights in motion pictures not for the protection of the contents thereof, but for the ulterior purpose of pre-empting the market in audio-visual playback machines for the disc machine in which MCA has a substantial investment, and to deprive the public of the benefit of a technological advance which MCA has been unable to achieve."

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TIP: Every couple of weeks or so I either send or receive a tape in the mail. If you are doing this on a regular basis, the following advice may be of interest:

1. Use a padded mailer, preferably the kind that has little plastic bubbly paper inside. They are available at office supply stores (and some post offices). The size "0" is just right for one tape (K-60, Betamax).

2. Wrap the tape in a section of newspaper and tape the paper tight before putting it in the mailer. This helps protect the tape even more and also keeps it from rattling around quite so much. (This is particularly important if the padded mailer you use is of the type that has shredded paper in it rather than the plastic bubbles; if the lining of the inside of the mailer breaks open you risk getting a lot of dust in the cassette.)

3. Use the Special 4th Class Rate for mailing. It's only 25¢ for a padded mailer containg one tape, or 35¢ for one containing two tapes. Just write on the outside of the mailer "Special 4th Class Rate: Tape Recording" and you're all set. Of course insurance is extra if you want.

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CIRCULATION: TVN #5 went to some 170+. Most subscriptions expired, and are being renewed everyday. Initial mailing of #6 will be about 100.
DEADLINE: Ads and contributions for #7 should reach me by May 11, or so.

Much that was hoped and promised for this issue got left out again. So ... Coming Up in Future Issues: (Notice that I wised up and stopped saying "next issue") The Betamax counter/time elapsed/time remaining chart, an index of the Amos and Andy Show, more on collecting commercials, a surprise cover directly from Hooterville, and ... if you coax me, the Video "Buff of the Month". Thanks to Jim Gibbon and Edgar Gelinas, and also to Bob for the Miss Court double feature, and until next time

ALL THE BEST—
Jim